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FANTHAM MEMORIAL

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FANTHAM MEMORIAL. THE UNVEILING CEREMONY.

The public ceremony of unveiling the statue in King Edward Park to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr A. A. Fantham, by the citizens and settlers of the district, took place on Wednesday afternoon. Owing to the inclemency of the weather there was not a representative attendance of the public, only between 20 and 25 people being present.

Mr H. W. Sutton (Chairman of Committee), who unveiled the statue, said it was some four years since the decease of the gentlemen of whom the statue was erected in memory. He detailed the steps which led up to the erection of the monument. It was a great pleasure to fill the position he was occupying that afternoon because he had known the late Mr Fantham for 20 or 22 years, and the deceased was a settler and citizen of no mean standing. He had always found him an honorable man in all his dealings—public and private—and actions. (Hear, hear.) That the deceased gentleman was held in high esteem was shown by the fact that the citizens had responded liberally towards the purchase of the monument. There were other gentlemen now deceased who ought to have their memory similarly perpetuated, and he hoped the present monument was only the forerunner of others. The figure was a good likeness of the

deceased, and was one that everyone in the district who had been acquainted with the late Mr Fantham would be able to recognise. Having thanked the ladies and gentlemen present for their attendance Mr Sutton declared the monument unveiled. Mr Sutton complimented the sculptor upon his work, and spoke enthusiastically of the part Mr R. D. Welsh had taken in getting the monument.

The Mayor (Mr B. C. Robbins) said that as a representative of the citizens of Hawera it gave him great pleasure to be present that afternoon. No doubt had the weather been fine there would have been a larger gathering of the citizens. The very fact that the citizens had responded liberally and spontaneously with subscriptions for a monument to commemorate the memory of the late Mr Fantham showed that the deceased must have been appreciated by a large number of people of the town and district. For his own part he was pleased that the memorial had taken the form of a statue, for visitors to Hawera, on viewing the Fantham memorial, would naturally make enquiries concerning it, and so the memory of the deceased would be perpetuated better in this way than in any other.

Mr R. D. Welsh (Secretary of the Memorial Committee) said Mr Sutton had been kind enough to refer to him (the speaker) personally, but he was only one of a large number of people who took an interest in the work. Their worthy Chairman had forgotten to mention that the chief mover was Mr H. W. Sutton himself. The late Mr Fantham was the type and representative of the class of men of whom they knew a good deal more than they always recollected. He spoke enthusiastically of the good work done by Mr Fantham as an early settler. The deceased had always worked right manfully and faithfully in the interests of

... was ... in the ... of
the town and district, not only in his public but in his private capacity. He did his share of the work without making any particular parade of anything that he had done. Present generations in looking backward were apt to forget the efforts of the old settlers. The monument unveiled that afternoon would, he felt sure, perpetuate the memory of a man who had worked hard, who had done his best, and had striven to do his duty. (Applause.)

Mr A. A. Fantham, jun., thanked all those who worked for and erected the monument. He stated that whatever his father had done his object had always been honest.

The gathering then dispersed.

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